

Serial Number: 10/065,870
Filed: 11/26/2002

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Remarks

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. A notation of "45" has been added to the figures and description to identify the aperture element cited by the Examiner. Proposed replacement sheets for Figures 3 and 4 are attached, along with annotated marked up drawings identifying the proposed additional figure notations for the aperture element "45" in red ink, surrounded by clouds. Amendments to the specification also add "45" where the aperture element appears in the description and table of contents. Because the aperture appeared in the original drawings and description as filed, no new matter has been added.

The Examiner objected to informalities in claim 21. Claim 21 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner rejected claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as indefinite. The dependency of the claims has been amended to supply the correct antecedent basis for the claim elements identified by the Examiner.

The Examiner rejected claims 17-21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by *Budreck*. The Examiner has identified the body assemblies of the cited reference

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as first and second clips. Applicant respectfully submits that these are not clips as understood by one skilled in the art upon a review of the specification. In fact, the cited device does not include clips at all. Also, the Examiner identifies the eyelets 42, 96 as "retaining tabs". Applicant has amended the claims to clarify that the clips are in fact clips according to the ordinary meaning of the term, i.e. attachable to the cord by the clips in a direction tangential to the longitudinal axis of the cord. Also, the retaining tabs are now more clearly identified as described in the specification, i.e. arranged to retain the retaining member upon a body of the first clip. As amended for clarity, the elements of the cited reference identified by the Examiner are clearly not applicable to the present novel and non-obvious invention. Therefore, because each and every element of the claimed invention fails to appear in the cited reference, rejection of claims 17-21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by *Budreck* is improper.

Having obviated each of the Examiners rejections, applicant respectfully requests that a notice of allowance be issued. Should the Examiner be inclined to issue an Official Action other than the notice of allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner first contact Applicant by telephone at the number listed below.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets for Figures 3 and 4, Annotated

Marked-up Drawings of Figures 3 and 4.